

Application Serial No. 10/531,218
Reply to Office Action of September 18, 200

PATENT
Docket: CU-4148

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated September 18, 2007, the Examiner states that Claims 1-6 are pending, and Claims 1-6 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-6 are rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Sucech (US 5, 643, 510) and SU 1252321, JP 10-330174 or GB 2032413. The Applicant considers that the amendments to the claims overcome these rejections.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of Claim 2 and 6.

Claim 1 includes the feature that "a content of the pore size adjusting agent in the foaming agent is 0.00001 parts by weight through 0.005 parts by weight per parts by weight of the calcined gypsum". This feature is not disclosed by Sucech, SU 1252321, or GB 2032413. Accordingly, the Applicant considers that Claim 1 is novel in view of these references.

Claim 1 also includes the features of "the step of preliminarily adding a pore size adjusting agent for adjusting sizes of foams distributed in the foamed gypsum slurry to one of a stock solution of the foaming agent and a mixture of a stock solution of the foaming agent and water to obtain the foaming agent for producing foams with desired sizes", "blowing air into a foaming agent to produce foams" and "mixing the foams into a kneaded material that contains calcined gypsum and water to obtain foamed gypsum slurry". These features are not disclosed by either of Sucech or JP 10-330174. Therefore, the Applicant also considers that Claim 1 is novel in view of those references.

Sucech may disclose the steps of "blending the streams of the first foaming agent and the second foaming agent to form a blended stream of the foaming agents" and "mixing the blended stream of foaming agents with the gypsum slurry" in Claim 1, it seems that the combination of steps of blowing air into a blended stream of the first and second foaming agents to produce foams and mixing the foams into the gypsum slurry is not disclosed or suggested (at least, not explicitly disclosed or not obviously suggested) in Sucech.

Accordingly, the step of "blending the streams of the first foaming agent and the second agent to form a blended stream of the foaming agents" disclosed in Sucech should not correspond to "the step of preliminarily adding a pore size

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adjusting agent for adjusting sizes of foams distributed in the foamed gypsum slurry to one of a stock solution of the foaming agent and a mixture of a stock solution of the foaming agent and water to obtain the foaming agent for producing foams with desired sizes" as recited in independent Claim 1.

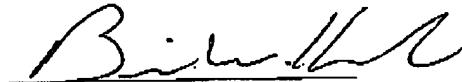
Furthermore, although JP 10-330174 may disclose prior art that essentially includes "an air void-containing gypsum board characterized in that air voids and a foam adjusting agent are mixed in a core material constituting a gypsum board" in Claim 1, the foaming agent is added (or should be directly added) into a slurry as described in paragraph 0007 and it seems that a step of preliminarily adding the foam adjusting agent to a stock solution of foaming agent and a mixture of a stock solution of foaming agent and water to obtain a foaming agent for producing foams is not disclosed or suggested in JP 10-330174.

Moreover, the feature "the step of preliminarily adding a pore size adjusting agent for adjusting sizes of foams distributed in the foamed gypsum slurry to one of a stock solution of the foaming agent and a mixture of a stock solution producing foams with desired sizes" recited in independent Claim 1 is obviously not disclosed or suggested in the background art.

Therefore, the Applicant considers that the present invention according to the amended claims is not obvious from the background art and the prior art disclosed in Sucech and JP 10-330174.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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